

State Dept. review completed

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NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPERS - AFRICA

Algeria

Morocco

Libya

Tunisia

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NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

ALGERIA

1. Illicit Drug Problem

Hard drugs and hallucinogens do not appear to be a serious problem in Algeria, and the present government has a reputation of actively opposing trafficking in and use of dangerous drugs. As in other Maghrebian countries there is some use of kif by a small minority of Algerians in the traditional sector of the society which includes poor farmers and other "less evolved" elements.

2. Drug Control Efforts

Judging from the general thoroughness of the Algerian law enforcement and customs agencies we assume the same degree of thoroughness exists in their drug control efforts. However, to what extent their efforts are directed specifically to drug/narcotics control is unknown. We do know these agencies are highly professional units completely capable of performing their assigned missions.

3. US Programs

Despite the absence of diplomatic relations, we are exploring ways by which Algerian cooperation can be obtained in the worldwide narcotics control program. Some areas in which we anticipate this may be accomplished are: exchange of narcotic intelligence information, encouragement of Algerian support for international narcotics control and, as our bilateral relations evolve, a mutual exchange of specialists, trainees, and experts.

NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

MOROCCO

1. Illicit Drug Problem

The illicit drug problem in Morocco is minimal. There is cultivation of cannabis, and hashish and kif are used amongst some traditional elements of the society. However, use has not spread and is well isolated to these traditional elements. There is no evidence of use by Moroccans of the "hard drugs" (heroin/cocaine/opium, etc.), although amphetamines and similar drugs are available without prescription.

2. Drug Control Efforts

The Moroccans perceive their greatest problems to lie in the introduction of drugs into the country by tourists and the return of native Moroccans from abroad where they may have become addicted. To combat this problem the GOM is strengthening its customs force and has enacted stiff penalties for the importation of narcotics into the country. There is some tolerance on the part of the GOM in regards to the use of kif and hashish. The principal reasons for this tolerance are the social role of kif as "poor, pious Muslims' alcohol," insufficient enforcement machinery, and absence of an economically viable substitute crop in the kif growing regions.

3. US Programs

A BNDD agent was recently assigned to the Embassy staff in Rabat to assist the GOM in its narcotics control procedures. He has not yet been on station a sufficient period of time to noticeably effect the Moroccan effort. It is anticipated that several Moroccans will receive training in the US during the forthcoming year in law enforcement, customs, and intelligence aspects of narcotics control.

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LIBYA

1. Illicit Drug Problem

The extent of the drug problem in Libya cannot be determined with exactitude. There is a large foreign community in Libya and the extent of their use of narcotics is hard to establish. However, recent newspaper articles indicate increased seizures of hashish by Libyan border patrol agencies on the Egyptian border within recent months. This could be accounted for in one of two ways: (1) increased smuggling activities; (2) increased effectiveness of Libyan border control and customs agencies. We have no sound basis to make a judgment between these alternatives.

2. Drug Control Efforts

The leadership of the LARG appears to be aware of the narcotics problem and is instituting measures to combat it. A comprehensive law providing for treatment and rehabilitation centers as well as narcotic control procedures has been passed. Recently a delegation was sent to Cairo to attend a meeting of FAR members relating to drug control matters. Working level contacts between LARG officials and US Embassy personnel have indicated an interest on the Libyans' part to improve their effectiveness in controlling narcotics.

3. US Programs

We have extended invitations to the LARG to participate in BNDD training courses as well as other law enforcement training in the US. We hope to establish a spirit of cooperation with the LARG by which narcotics programs, exchange of narcotic information, etc., will develop to our mutual benefit.

NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

TUNISIA

1. Illicit Drug Problem

There appears to be no significant drug or narcotics problem in Tunisia today. The greatest danger lies in the introduction of narcotics into the country by tourists. Arrests of tourists have increased over the past several years as the tourist industry has grown. The Judicial Police Commissaire Superieur, who is in charge of narcotics law enforcement, has stated that: with the increasing numbers of tourists in the last few years, a minor problem has developed; however, to date, the situation is under control.

2. Drug Control Efforts

Tunisia has been singularly successful in the handling of its narcotics problem to date. After independence, the GOT launched a major effort to prevent the use of hashish and kif as well as other narcotic and dangerous drugs. Tunisian law provides for a minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and an additional 5 years under close supervision. Tunisian law enforcement efforts have effectively reduced to a bare minimum illegal trafficking by Tunisian citizens. There is no evidence that drugs are being smuggled into Tunisia across either the Algerian or Libyan borders.

3. US Programs

Although they are not directed specifically towards narcotics and drug control, the USG has had military assistance and public safety programs in Tunisia for many years. These programs have been primarily oriented toward internal security, and the Public Safety Program in particular has assisted the Tunisians in establishing effective law enforcement, customs, and border police agencies. It is also anticipated that specialized narcotics training will be provided.